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ORIGIN PRM-10INFO LOG-00 AF-01 AID-00 CIAE-00 OASY-00 DODE-00 DS-00
OIGO-01 TEDE-00 INR-00 IO-10 ADS-00 NSAE-00 OIC-02
OIG-04 SCT-00 SR-00 FMP-00 DSAC-00 DRL-09 /037RDRAFTED BY: PRM/AAA: MMLANGE
APPROVED BY: PRM/AAA: MJMCKELVEY
AF/C: KCAISTON
AF/RCS: SMCLILVAINE
AF/C: TMCCULLEY
IO/ESA: KJMC GUIRE

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O P 142333Z APR 95
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY KIGALI IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA IMMEDIATE
USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY
INFO RWANDA COLLECTIVE PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 092725

GENEVA FOR RMA

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PREF RW CG
SUBJECT: ARMED ATTACK ON RWANDAN REFUGEE CAMP
REF: (A) 95 GENEVA 3027, (B) 95 STATE 91142, (C) 95 KINSHASA 2193,
(D) 95 KINSHASA 2215

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: HARMON E KIRBY
DATE/CASE ID: 24 APR 2009 200103014

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1. C - ENTIRE TEXT.

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2. REF A REPORTS OF ATTACK ON BIRAVA REFUGEE CAMP BY ARMED ELEMENTS (PRESUMED TO BE THE RPA) CHASING OTHER ARMED ELEMENTS (PRESUMED TO BE THE EX-FAR OR HUTU MILITIA) WHO SOUGHT REFUGE IN BIRAVA. TWENTY-EIGHT REFUGEES WERE KILLED, AND 54 WOUNDED; THREE OF THE WOUNDED HAVE SINCE DIED. UNHCR IS TRYING TO PIECE TOGETHER THE DETAILS OF THE ATTACK. REGARDLESS OF WHO IS RESPONSIBLE, THIS INCIDENT CALLS FOR A STRONG PUBLIC REACTION AND A PLEA - HOWEVER HORTATORY - FOR BETTER PROTECTION OF REFUGEES CONSISTENT WITH INTERNATIONAL CONCLUSIONS ON THE ISSUE OF ARMED ATTACKS ON REFUGEE CAMPS.

3. FOR KIGALI. DEPT UNDERSTANDS THAT THE GOR IS DENYING RESPONSIBILITY FOR THIS ATTACK. WHETHER THE GOR'S CLAIM IS TRUE OR NOT, WE FEEL THAT THIS WOULD BE A GOOD TIME TO URGE THE GOR NOT TO ENGAGE IN ARMED ATTACKS AGAINST REFUGEE CAMPS. EMBASSY KIGALI IS REQUESTED TO MAKE THE FOLLOWING POINTS TO APPROPRIATE GOR OFFICIALS:

-- THE USG RECOGNIZES THAT REFUGEE CAMPS IN ZAIRE DO NOT YET CONFORM TO INTERNATIONAL PRINCIPLES REGARDING THEIR LOCATION AND EXCLUSIVELY CIVILIAN CHARACTER, AND THUS MAY POSE A SECURITY THREAT TO RWANDA.

-- WHILE REFUGEE CAMPS ARE INTENDED TO BE ENTIRELY CIVILIAN IN NATURE, WE KNOW THAT MANY ARMED ELEMENTS (WHO BY TAKING UP ARMS FORFEIT THEIR REFUGEE STATUS) ARE

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INDEED USING REFUGEE CAMPS AS BASES OF OPERATIONS FOR
ACTIONS AGAINST RWANDA.

-- WE ARE WORKING TO SUPPORT THE EFFORTS OF THE UNHCR AND THE GOVERNMENT OF ZAIRE TO TRY TO IMPROVE SECURITY OF REFUGEE CAMPS IN ZAIRE AND TO ISOLATE ARMED ELEMENTS FROM THE REFUGEE POPULATION. THIS WILL, HOWEVER, TAKE TIME.

-- WE URGE THE GOR TO AVOID THE TEMPTATION OF
ATTACKING REFUGEE CAMPS. THESE CAMPS SHELTER MANY

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INNOCENT REFUGEES IN ADDITION TO THE UNCLASSIFIED.
THOSE WHO ARE INNOCENT MUST BE PROTECTED EVEN IN SUCH
SITUATIONS WHERE ARMED ELEMENTS WHO MAY HAVE COME FROM
Camps HAVE ATTACKED FIRST.

4. FOR KINSHASA. THE BIRAVA ATTACK CAN ALSO BE USED AS
A SPRINGBOARD TO REMIND THE GOZ OF ITS OBLIGATION AS A
REFUGEE HOSTING COUNTRY TO TAKE ALL POSSIBLE STEPS TO
PROTECT THOSE WHO HAVE SOUGHT ASYLUM WITHIN ITS BORDERS
AND TO PREVENT REFUGEES FROM TAKING ANY HOSTILE ACTION
AGAINST THEIR HOME COUNTRY. FURTHER TO CAUTIONS
EXPRESSED IN REF B (DEMARCHE REPORTED REF D), EMBASSY IS
REQUESTED TO MAKE THE FOLLOWING POINTS TO APPROPRIATE GOZ
AUTHORITIES:

-- THE USG APPRECIATES THE HOSPITALITY OF THE GOZ IN
OFFERING ASYLUM TO OVER 1 MILLION RWANDAN AND BURUNDI
REFUGEES.

-- WE RECOGNIZE THAT ALONG WITH THE OFFER OF ASYLUM,
THE GOZ HAS ALSO COMMITTED ITSELF UNDER INTERNATIONAL LAW
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TO PROTECT REFUGEES.

-- THE GOZ, WORKING WITH UNHCR, HAS MADE PROGRESS IN
ITS EFFORTS TO IMPROVE SECURITY OF REFUGEES IN THE GOMA
AND BUKAVU REGIONS.

-- THE USG URGES THE GOZ TO CONTINUE ITS EFFORTS OF
REMOVING ARMED ELEMENTS FROM REFUGEE CAMPS, WORKING
TOWARDS A COMPLETE CIVILIANIZATION OF ALL CAMPS IN ZAIRE.

5. FOR GENEVA. DEPT WOULD APPRECIATE AN UPDATE FROM
UNHCR ON (A) FURTHER DETAILS OF THE BIRAVA ATTACK, AND
(B) THE STATUS OF DEPLOYMENT OF ZAIRIAN PROTECTIVE FORCES
IN REFUGEE CAMPS. IN LIGHT OF THE BIRAVA ATTACK, HAS THE
ROLE OR MANDATE OF THE PROTECTIVE FORCES CHANGED?
TALBOTT

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